# OLR Bill Analysis sHB 5495

# AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED CERTIFICATES PROGRAM.

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to develop an accelerated certificates program that allows eligible adults to obtain a post-high school certificate within 18 months or less, as determined by BOR. BOR must develop the program in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, the State Department of Education (SDE), and regional workforce development boards. The bill defines "eligible adults" as individuals who are:

- 1. eligible to enroll in adult education programs (see BACKGROUND),
- 2. not proficient in English or mathematics, as determined by BOR, and
- 3. seeking to enter or reenter the workforce or obtain better employment.

The bill requires the program's courses to include (1) adult literacy, (2) English for adults with limited English proficiency, (3) mathematics, and (4) career or technical training. It also requires BOR to work with SDE and regional workforce development boards to ensure that the program is offered locally throughout the state at one or more regional community-technical colleges, technical high schools, or adult education programs.

It also requires the BOR president, beginning July 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, to report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement committee about the types of certificates BOR offers under the program, as well as the number of eligible adults

who:

1. enrolled in and successfully completed the program and

2. found a job or enrolled for additional education in their earned

certificate subject area.

(Employment and further education enrollment data may be incomplete for the first annual report because students may take up to

18 months to earn a certificate.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

#### BACKGROUND

## Adult Education Enrollment Requirements

The law does not require high school graduates to meet enrollment requirements for adult education; however, high school students who wish to enroll in adult education must:

1. receive the approval of the high school principal where he or she

is enrolled or

2. be enrolled in an adult educational activity as part of an alternative educational opportunity during an expulsion period

(CGS § 10-69(a)).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

**Ioint Favorable Substitute** 

Yea

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Nay 1

(03/13/2014)